



NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

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Media Contact: Jeff Harris, 317/ 232-3396
Angie Nussmeyer, 317/ 233-5050

Kernan awards training grant to Jasper's Indiana Furniture Industries

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Workforce Development has awarded an \$81,466 grant from the Incumbent Worker Training Fund to Jasper's Indiana Furniture Industries to train 23 workers.

Established in 1905 as The Jasper Novelty Works, Indiana Furniture Industries offers a complete line of contemporary and traditional office furniture and services over 800 dealers throughout the United States.

"Enhancing the overall skill level of a workforce is key to the future success of our Hoosier businesses," said Kernan. "We are proud to partner with Indiana Furniture Industries, which has made a commitment to improve productivity and manufacturing processes by focusing on its workers."

Workplace skills in an advanced manufacturing environment will be addressed thus preparing the 23 employees participating in this on-the-clock training for advancement beyond an entry-level position. The training program, which is leveraged by a \$86,595 match from the company, will result in each person receiving a 10-core certificate of technical achievement in advanced manufacturing as well as 16 credit hours from Vincennes University.

"We are very excited about receiving this grant from the State of Indiana. It will give our employees the opportunity to gain additional knowledge in their field, while at the same time receive credit hours from Vincennes University so that they may further their education" stated Nancy Wilson, Director of Human Resources for Indiana Furniture Industries

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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